

November 26, 2002

FCC

Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

Via Electronic Filing

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not rule in favor of splitting the 310 area code. There are several options available to the FCC, the California Public Utilities Commission and the phone utilities that would not require such a time consuming, expensive and sometimes life threatening adjustment to take place.

As you are aware a technology overlay would free up millions of phone numbers. These non-voice numbers used by ATM's, credit card machines, cash registers, business computer modems and a hundred other like devices could care less about changing area codes. The switch would cost virtually nothing and would require little on behalf of the residents and employees of the area to begin using efficiently and effectively.

You are also aware of the current rule that phone companies must use 10% of their allotted numbers before they can request more. As you have noted, this phone number hoarding has already helped the County of Los Angeles to go from a four area code region to over a dozen in just a decade. The proposed rule change increasing required usage to 25% will help, but still does not fix the problem. Even as we discuss this current "crisis," there are still over 1 million unused 310-telephone numbers being held. Please consider upping the required usage rule to as much as 50% before more numbers can be requested.

The costs of forcing an area code change would be devastating to our already fragile economy as well as to the lives of many of our local residents. The fiscal costs to small and medium sized businesses could plunge California's economy, the fifth largest in the world, deep into crisis. The ports located in the 310 area code alone handle 40% of the Nations cargo. Any slowdown in productivity, regardless of the cause, hurts every level of our nations businesses.

Our aging population would also be gravely affected by the change. These people depend on their routine to survive. They must have swift access to their doctors, nurses and pharmacists. The disruption in their lives that a switch would ultimately cause could be the deciding factor of life or death.

Please take whatever means possible to make voice phone line area code changes the solution of last resort. You have several viable options to keep this switch from happening. Please use your experience and wisdom to choose the path that makes sense for the residents of this region, not what is easiest for the phone utilities.

Thank you for your time and attention.
Sincerely,

Christopher Munn